

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

12 May 2019

Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

**HYMNS:** 785 324 464 839 (294) 494

**INTROIT:** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise Him in the heights above!

Praise Him, all you His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!

Praise Him, sun, and moon! Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For He commanded and they were created.

He set them in position for ever and ever. He gave a decree that will not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and fog, wind and storm, which carry out His Word, you mountains and all hills, you fruit trees and all cedars, you wild animals and all cattle, you reptiles and winged birds, you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges on the earth, you young men and also you maidens, you old men together with young people!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For His name alone is exalted. His majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people, praise from all His devout people, from the people of Israel, the people who are close to Him! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

**COLLECT:** O God, You make the minds of Your faithful people to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Acts 11:1-8 "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

Revelation 21:1-7 "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem."

John 16:12-22 When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will lead you into the whole truth.

**SERMON:** John 16:12-16 The Spirit of Truth

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot endure them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will lead you into the whole truth. For He will not speak on His own authority but will speak whatever He hears and will tell you what is coming.

<sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and will tell it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. That is why I have said, 'He takes from what is Mine and will tell it to you.'

<sup>16</sup> "A little while and you do not see Me any longer and, again, a little while, and you will see Me."

The Lord's Supper has always been seen as a sign of unity between those who commune together at the Lord's table (1 Cor. 10:17). When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper in a church body that has a confession of faith, they thereby declare that they believe that they are one in faith with those who commune with them. Since people cannot honestly hold two differing confessions at the same time, they cannot honestly commune with those whose confession is in conflict with their own. If any do this nevertheless, they deny their own confession, and so deny Christ Himself (2 Cor. 6:14-18). **We ask visitors who are communicant members in a church not in fellowship with the AELC, or are not familiar with the AELC Statement of Faith, to refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor after service.**

## THE JOYS OF ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life means the end of any spiritual or physical separation from God. It is the everlasting enjoyment of life as God intended it to be for us at creation and as Jesus perfectly restored it for us by all that He did in His work for our salvation. It's all there already in that beautiful summation of the gospel in John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life.*"

Anything else that we can say about heaven is really just another way of saying that it is eternal life with Jesus at its centre. Thus, heaven is the everlasting experience of perfect joy. Jesus was fond of picturing that joy for us as the joy of a wedding banquet at which He is the Bridegroom and His church - each believer and all believers together - is the bride. He did that in some of His parables about heaven and about Judgment Day (e.g., Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13). From our Second Reading today, Revelation 21:1-7, John sees the church coming down out of heaven as a beautiful bride accompanied with shouts of joy and praise to God that the wedding banquet of the Lamb has begun and will never end.

Already in the Old Testament the theme of heaven as the experience of everlasting joy is expressed often, especially in the Psalms and in Isaiah. Psalm 16:11 tells us that even now we know such joy but that ultimately, we will experience it fully and forever. David says, *“You make known to Me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand there are pleasures for ever.”* The path of life is, of course, God’s Word, in particular the message of the Gospel. To the extent that we depart from it in this life, to that extent our experience of joy in God’s presence is marred or lost. Glory of glories! In heaven such departures will be no more. Therefore, the joy of heaven will be full and perfect in every way. Isaiah puts our entrance into heaven this way: *“Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return. They will enter Zion with singing. Everlasting joy will be on their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away,”* (Isaiah 35:10).

To say much more about the nature of our joy in heaven is to attempt a description of the indescribable. For, again, how do we begin to imagine a condition in which all sin and temptation and guilt are forever vanquished together with their painful consequences? St. Paul bids us be content with the assurance that God has given us for that joyous and eternal life when he says, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time do not deserve to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us,”* (Romans 8:18), and, *“That is why we are not discouraged. Rather, even though our outward person is wasting away, our inward person is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary trouble is producing for us an utterly extraordinary and eternal weight of glory. <sup>18</sup> We do not look at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal,”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

I, for one, cannot wait to be with Jesus in heaven!

*Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*  
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.  
 Email him at [paziebell@gmail.com](mailto:paziebell@gmail.com)  
 Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).  
**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

26 May 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Thursday 30 May Ascension Day	2 June 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.00am GRN HC	7.30pm AUB HC	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB HC
<b>Sunday, 26 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:9-14; 21-27; John 16:23-33		
HYMNS: 97 322 420 (311 283) 221		
<b>THURSDAY, 30 May</b>		
READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53		
HYMNS: 106 771 115 323 335 113		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, 25 May, 10.00am. CoC/Sem meeting at Marburg. Please pass on agenda items to the secretary, Ian Manz at [igm64@hotmail.com](mailto:igm64@hotmail.com).

## BIBLE STUDIES:

AUB/OAK: Friday, 24 May, 7.30pm at Aubigny.